

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-03 ARA-10 AGRE-00
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R 260220Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106144

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, MR, US, PINS

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR KOCHMAN CALLS ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY MOOSE

REF: STATE 69677(NOTAL)

1. MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR KOCHMAN CALLED ON
ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE, APRIL 21 AT HIS REQUEST
TO REPORT ON HIS MOST RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN
NOUAKCHOTT. KOCHMAN'S PRESENTATION WAS ESSENTIALLY
A REPLAY OF HIS EARLIER MONOLOGUES (REFTEL), WITH
THE EMPHASIS BEING PLACED ON THE PROFOUND INTEREST
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OF PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH IN CLOSER RELATIONS WITH
U.S., A CASTIGATION OF ALGERIAN PERFIDY IN THE
WESTERN SAHARA, AND AN APPEAL FOR A MORE CLEAR AND
FORTHCOMING POSITION BY THE USG IN THE FACE OF A
GROWING SOVIET/CUBAN THREAT TO AFRICA.

2. LANG-PRITCHARD SUGAR REFINERY - KOCHMAN

RAISED SUBJECT FOR FIRST TIME WITH DEPARTMENT, NOTING THAT GIRM IN PAST HAD MADE MISTAKES IN SELECTION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. HE CLAIMED THAT WHILE HE UNDERSTOOD USG HAD NO DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THIS PROJECT, THERE WERE MEMBERS OF HIS

GOVERNMENT WHO FELT THAT THE U.S. HAD AT LEAST A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY AS FORMER AMBASSADOR MURPHY HAD BEEN AN ADVOCATE OF LANG-PRITCHARD. KOCHMAN SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT A MEETING COULD BE SET UP ON THIS SUBJECT WITH EXIM, WHO HE VIEWED AS BEING CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE. (FYI: SUCH A MEETING IS SET FOR APRIL 27. LANG-PRITCHARD PRESIDENT OLIPHANT, KOCHMAN AND AF/W REPRESENTATIVE WILL ATTEND. END FYI.) KOCHMAN FELT SOMETHING COULD BE WORKED OUT WITHOUT GETTING THE USG DEEPLY INVOLVED BUT WANTED MOOSE TO BE AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND HIS EFFORTS.

3. PEACE MOVES ON WESTERN SAHARA - MOOSE ASKED KOCHMAN IF HE COULD SHED ANY LIGHT ON RUMORS OF CONTACTS AND EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION OF THE WESTERN SAHARA DISPUTE. KOCHMAN SAID THAT BECAUSE OF HIS STRONG CRITICAL STATEMENTS OF ALGERIA, PRESIDENT SENGHOR HAD TO BE COUNTED OUT FOR ANY GOOD OFFICES ROLE. PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE OF NIGER IS TRYING TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL
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SETTLEMENT AND IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS REGULAR MEETINGS WITH THE ALGERIANS TO DO WHAT HE CAN. NIGER, MALI, AND CHAD ARE SENSITIVE TO ALGERIAN DISTABLIZATION EFFORTS IN THE AREA, AND KOUNTCHE WANTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION BEFORE MORE SAHELIAN STATES WITH SIGNIFICANT ARAB POPULATIONS BECOME IMBROILED.

4. KOCHMAN CHARACTERIZED LIBYAN-MAURITANIAN RELATIONS AS "FRANKLY PECULIAR". LIBYA DOES NOT RECOGNIZE SDAR BUT IS FOOTING THE BILL, WHILE STILL MAINTAINING NORMAL RELATIONS WITH MAURITANIA. KOCHMAN INTERPRETS LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR THE POLISARIO AS NOT BEING DIRECTED AGAINST MAURITANIA BUT RATHER A REFLECTION OF QADHAFI'S PROFOUND DISLIKE FOR KING HASSAN. KOCHMAN SAID THAT WHILE HE DID NOT HAVE A REPORT ON HIS PRESIDENT'S RECENT TRIP TO TRIPOLI, HE STRONGLY SUSPECTED THAT QADHAFI WOULD NOW TRY TO HELP FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. QADHAFI'S DISTASTE FOR KING HASSAN IS ONLY SURPASSED BY HIS DISLIKE FOR THE ARROGANCE OF BOUMEDIENE.

5. MOOSE VISIT TO MAURITANIA - KOCHMAN SAID THAT

IT WAS HIS FONDEST DREAM THAT PRESIDENT OULD
DADDAH WOULD SOME DAY VISIT THE U.S. HE REALIZED
THAT THE MOST REALISTIC WAY IN WHICH IT MIGHT TAKE
PLACE, IS IF HE WERE TO COME IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY.
BEFORE SUCH A VISIT, HOWEVER, HE CONSIDERED IT
ESSENTIAL FOR MOOSE TO VISIT MAURITANIA. HE CLAIMED
THAT HE HAD PROMISED HIS PRESIDENT THAT MOOSE WOULD

COME. MOOSE SAID THAT HE DEFINITELY WOULD VISIT
MAURITANIA, AND HOPED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE DURING
THE COURSE OF THE SUMMER. HE WANTED TO WORK OUT A
FIRM PLAN FOR VISITING SEVERAL OF THE COUNTRIES
IN WEST AFRICA AND THEN STICK TO IT.

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6. KOCHMAN SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO BRAZIL
TO PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS IN THE FIRST PART OF MAY,
AFTER WHICH HE WILL TRAVEL TO NOUAKCHOTT FOR
FURTHER CONSULTATIONS.
VANCE

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NNN

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